

My name is Chris Toth and I fully support House bill 6517.

I have two sons, one in 5th grade and the other in 6th who both have dyslexia. I began questioning their ability to read as young as 1st grade. After denial from our first school district to even consider testing our older son we moved to our current town. The second school district was **much** easier to work with, acknowledged our concerns and did perform standardized testing. This was done for both of our sons. Unfortunately, the school team did not interpret the test data correctly and did not identify that either of them had dyslexia.

After 2 more years of frustration for my sons and further testing and school meetings, we finally hired a parent advocate who insisted we get an Independent Education Evaluation. It was not until we had properly trained and skilled professionals well-versed in dyslexia and how to identify dyslexia that both of our sons began to receive more targeted school programming and support coupled with a structured literacy program taught by a highly trained and certified reading instructor that they began to read.

I sincerely believe that if our school team had received in their Higher Education content instruction in the science of reading and a deeper training in identifying dyslexia, coupled with a structured literacy program to properly teach dyslexic students how to read, our school district could have saved a significant amount of money and resources, as well as saving a significant amount of time and heartache for our 2 sons.

Sincerely,
Chris Toth